

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FURTHER ISRAELI REACTION TO US VETO

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIALS IN MORNING NEWSPAPERS

EXPRERDQY DQX CTPFL#BY VETOING THE PRO-ARAB

DRAFT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT WARN THAT THE GENERAL SITUATION, AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED, REMAINS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER. EDITORIALISTS CITE AS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE PLO IN GAINING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS CLAIM TO BE THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND FOR ITS DEMANDS FOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. THEY ALSO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE US SUPPORT OF ISRAELI POSITION ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING ARAB PRESSURE FOR PLO RECOGNITION. END SUMMARY.

2. HAARETZ WRITES THAT "BY VETOING THE RESOLUTION OF THE SIX NON-ALIGNED STATES, THE US HAS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE MADE GOOD ITS MISTAKE OF NOVEMBER 30...THE US REPRESENTATIVE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE US CANNOT ON ANY ACCOUNT AGREE TO A
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DRAFT THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE MECHANISM THE

COUNCIL HAS ESTABLISHED IN PREVIOUS YEARS AS A CHANNEL FOR SETTTLING THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE, EVEN IF THAT MEANS IT MUST STAND ALONE. THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP HAS STOOD BY ITS PROMISE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO TREAT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AS THE ONLY UN RESOLUTIONS WHICH IT REGARDS AS RELEVANT; AND THAT SHOULD BE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION. IT IS NO SLUR ON THE ARITS OF THE US IF WE ADD THAT THE INTRANSIGENCY OF THE ARABS HAS ALSO HELPED US EMERGE UNSCATHED... THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR ASSUMING THAT THE US WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE ARABS TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH A MORE MODERATE DRAFT. BUT IF ITS REPRESENTATIVES WERE ACTIVE IN THAT DIRECTION, THEY HAVE RUN INTO AN IMMOVABLE OBSTACLE... (THAT) LONDON, STOCKHOLM AND ROME DECIDED TO ABSTAIN WAS, PRESUMABLY DUE TO A LARGE EXTENT TO THE DETERMINED OPPOSITION OF THE US...THE JOINT ASSAULT OF SYRIA AND THE PLO HAS BEEN BEATEN OFF, BUT EVEN THE US VETO CANNOT UNDO THEIR ACHIEVEMENT OF PRODUCING THE NINE VOTES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL NEEDED TO CREATE A PRO-ARAB MAJORITY, AND OF ASSUMING THAT THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WAS GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF PRIMINENCE. EVEN IF THE DEBATE DID NOT COVER THE PLO WITH GLORY, THE FACT THAT THE US HAD DEFEATED THE RESOLUTION WILL HARDLY DISPOSE OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. ON THE CONTRARY, OFFICIAL WASHINGTON MAY NOW FEEL OBLIGED TO SEEK OTHER WAYS OF SOLVING IT AND TO CLAIM THAT ISRAEL SHOULD FEEL THAT IT OWES THE US A REWARD."

3.KLN DAVAR'S VIEW, "THE SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION, WHICH ENDED WITH THE US VETOING THE PROPOSED PRO-ARAB RESOLUTION EVEN AFTER ITS SPONSORS HAD TRIED TO GIVE IT A 'MODERATE' LOOK, HAS NOT DONE MUCH FOR ANYONE INVOLVED, AND MAY BE DESCRIBED AS A STERILE EXERCISE...ESSENTIALLY, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE US HAVING FOILED THE ARAB ATTEMPT TO USE THE COUNCIL AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR LAYING DOWN AN IMPOSED SOLUTION... IN CASTING THE VETO, THE US HAS PREVENTED THE REPEAL OR AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, WHICH AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED PROVIDE THE ONLY POSSIBLE

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BASIS FOR PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS OR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT... THE ABSTENTIONS OF BRITAIN,...ITALY AND SWEDEN, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE LATTER HAD HEDGED ON PREVIOUS VOTES ON THE ISRAELI SUBJECT...WERE CLOSE TO THE POSITION DESIRED... THE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUED AFTER THE VETO MAKES CLEAR THAT AS OF NOW, THE US PERSISTS IN ITS STAND, CONCERNING BOTH THE PLO AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND WAYS OF

MAKING DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST--POSITIONS WHICH ISRAEL ACCEPTS IN ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER. THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT THERE WILL NOT BE EROSION OF THESE AMERICAN POSITIONS EVEN IN THIS ELECTION YEAR, FOR INSTANCE IN CASE OF RENEWED SYRIAN BLACKMAIL IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE UNDOF MANDATE. BUT THE PRESENT SITUATION, AFTER THE AMERICAN VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, ESTABLISHES THE AMBIANCE FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL IN THE IMPENDING DIPLOMATIC MOVES WHICH WILL DOUBTLESS BE DISCUSSED DURING PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S VISIT IN WASHINGTON."

4. AL HAMISHMAR NOTES THAT "THE US HAS KEPT ITS PROMISE TO DEFEAT AN EXTREMIST RESOLUTION THAT WOULD BE LIABLE TO RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT ONE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT THE US IS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HAVING HAD TO STAND ALONE IN THIS VOTE... THE FACT THAT THE AMERICAN VETO HAS FOILED THE ARAB PROPOSAL DOES NOT ALLOW US TO DISREGARD THE UNFORTUNATE SITUATION ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF ARAB EXTREMISM... THE PRESENT BATTLE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS OVER, BUT THE STRUGGLE FOR A SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS WILL CONTINUE UNABATED..."

5. HATZOFEH HOLDS THAT "THE US WHICH HAS USED ITS RIGHT OF VETO...HAS SHOWN ITSELF CONSISTENT IN ITS REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO AND HAS HONORABLY KEPT ITS PROMISES TO JERUSALEM...BY VIRTUE OF THE AMERICAN VETO, AN OPERATIVE RESOLUTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN PREVENTED, BUT THE DEBATE ITSELF...CANNOT BUT TROUBLE ALL WHO FEAR THAT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION MAY DETERIORATE

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INTO WAR...THE AMERICAN VETO AND ITS TIMING, ON THE EVE OF THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US, IS ON THE ONE HAND A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP AND OF IDENTIFICATION WITH JERUSALEM IN EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH THE PLO, AND ON THE OTHER HAND A DEMONSTRATION OF STRENGTH ON THE PART OF THE US, PUTTING THE USSR AND SYRIA, WHO INITIATED THE DEBATE, ON NOTICE THAT WASHINGTON CONTINUES HOLDING THE KEY TO A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST..."

6. ABSENCE OF AFTERNOON PRESS COMMENTARY PROBABLY DUE TO FACT THAT EDITORIALISTS HAD TIME TO OFFER THEIR REACTIONS IN YESTERDAY'S EDITIONS (TEL AVIV 686).

DUNNIGAN

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